

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request that the above application be reconsidered, as amended. Claims 1, 6-13, 15, 17, 19-25, 29-30, 32-34 and 36 are currently pending.

A. Response to Objection to Claims 35-36

At page 6 of the Office Action, Claims 35-36 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Responsive to this objection, Claim 1 has been amended to include the language of Claims 2-3 and 35 (now cancelled). Claim 36 has been amended to depend from amended Claim 1. Accordingly, Claims 1 and 36 should now be in condition for allowance.

B. Response to Rejection of Claims 1-3, 6-11, 13-25, and 34 under 35 USC 103(a) as Unpatentable over Brindley et al

At pages 3-4 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected Claims 1-3, 6-11, 13-25, and 34 under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,093,454 (Brindley et al.).

For reasons previously presented in Applicants' prior response of February 28, 2005, Claims 1-3, 6-11, 13-25 and 34, without amendment, are novel and unobvious over Brindley et al. However, to facilitate the prosecution and allowance of the above application, Applicants have: (1) cancelled Claims 2-3, 14, 16, 18, 26-28, and 31; (2) amended Claims 1, 13 and 15 to recite the language, respectively, of allowable Claims 35 and 36 with regard to the bond coat strengthening compound; and (3) amended Claims 6, 17, 29 and 32 to change the dependency thereof to allowable amended Claims 1, 13, 15 or 17. Nonetheless, Applicants still reserve the right, without disclaimer or prejudice, to pursue the subject matter of cancelled Claims 2-3, 14, 16, 18, 26-28, and 31 in a subsequent continuation application.

Accordingly, Claims 1, 6-13, 15, 17, 19-25, 29-30, and 32-34, as amended, are allowable over Brindley et al.

C. Response to Rejection of Claims 1-3 and 6-33 under 35 USC 103(a) as Unpatentable over Wustman et al

At pages 4-5 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected Claims 1-3 and 6-33 under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,485,845 (Wustman et al.).

For reasons previously presented in Applicants' prior response of February 28, 2005, Claims 1-3 and 6-33, without amendment, are novel and unobvious over Wustman et al. However, to facilitate the prosecution and allowance of the above application, Applicants have: (1) cancelled Claims 2-3, 14, 16, 18, 26-28, and 31; (2) amended Claims 1, 13 and 15 to recite the language, respectively, of allowable Claims 35 and 36 with regard to the bond coat strengthening compound; and (3) amended Claims 6, 17, 29 and 32 to change the dependency thereof to allowable amended Claims 1, 13, 15 or 17. Nonetheless, Applicants still reserve the right, without disclaimer or prejudice, to the pursue the subject matter of cancelled Claims 2-3, 14, 16, 18, 26-28, and 31 in a subsequent continuation application.

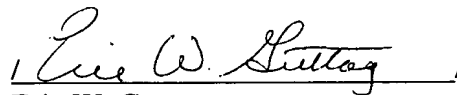
Accordingly, Claims 1, 6-13, 15, 17, 19-25, 29-30, and 32-33, as amended, are allowable over Wustman et al.

D. Conclusion

In conclusion, Claims 1, 6-13, 15, 17, 19-25, 29-30, 32-34 and 36, as amended, are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the above application be allowed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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